



Security Council

Distr.: General
14 April 2004

Original: English

Letter dated 6 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to bring to your attention the final communiqué of the ECOWAS extraordinary summit on the challenges of integration and development and NEPAD implementation in West Africa, held in Accra on 19 and 20 March 2004 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nana Effah-Apenteng
Ambassador and Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 6 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Economic Community of West African States summit on the challenges of integration and development and NEPAD implementation in West Africa

Accra, 19 and 20 March 2004

Final communiqué

The Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) met with the President of the World Bank, Mr James Wolfensohn at Accra on 19 and 20 March 2004 to review the integration process, and the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in West Africa. The summit meeting was chaired by President John Agyekum Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana, Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government.

It is to be recalled that, by the establishment of ECOWAS in 1975, all West African states committed themselves to the development of their national economies through regional integration. The decision made in 1993 under the ECOWAS Revised Treaty by West African leaders to deepen the integration process was re-inforced in May 2002 at Yamoussoukro when the ECOWAS Authority adopted a regional approach to NEPAD implementation in West Africa. It is further recalled that the World Bank adopted in August 2001 its Regional Integration Assistance Strategy (RIAS) for West Africa to facilitate a more organized and increased support to the deepening of regional integration in West Africa.

For the past three years, a strong partnership has been built between the World Bank and ECOWAS (Member States and institutions) as a means for a more effective implementation of the regional integration programmes and NEPAD initiatives. A manifestation of the importance of this partnership to the West African development process was the ECOWAS decision to hold a special summit on improving the regional approach and an enhanced World Bank participation in ECOWAS and NEPAD programmes.

Attendance

The summit meeting was attended by the following Heads of State and Government or their duly accredited representatives:

- His Excellency Mathieu Kérékou, President of the Republic of Bénin
- His Excellency Blaise Compaore, President of Faso
- His Excellency Yahya A.J. Jammeh, President of the Republic of The Gambia
- His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana
- His Excellency Amadou Toumani Touré, President of the Republic of Mali
- His Excellency Mamadou Tandja, President of the Republic of Niger
- His Excellency Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- His Excellency Maître Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal
- His Excellency Ahmed Teejan Kabbah, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone
- His Excellency José Armando Duarte representing the President of Cape Verde
- His Excellency Seydou Diarra, Prime Minister, representing the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Honourable Mamadi Conde, representing the President of the Republic of Guinea
- Honourable Joao José Silva Monteiro, representing the President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau
- Honourable Wesley Johnson, Vice-Chairman, representing the Chairman of the National Reconciliation Government of the Republic of Liberia
- His Excellency Kofi Sama, Prime Minister, representing the President of the Togolese Republic.

The following organisations and institutions were represented:

- The World Bank
- The ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) Group
- The ECOWAS Parliament
- The Community Court of Justice
- The ECOWAS Gender Development Centre
- The UEMOA Commission
- The West African Monetary Institute (WAMI)
- The West African Monetary Agency (WAMA)
- The African Development Bank (ADB)
- The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- The NEPAD Secretariat
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Review of West African development process

After an introductory presentation by Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas, ECOWAS Executive Secretary, the summit reviewed the development process in West Africa. The meeting focused first on the challenges that have confronted the integration and development efforts over the years. It paid particular attention to the need to overcome fundamental development problems such as fragmented and unviable national economies which are undiversified and very vulnerable to external and internal shocks. It noted that the political and socio-economic instabilities have been disruptive of the development process and discouraged long-term investment.

The summit recognised the importance of a regional approach to economic development. In spite of the considerable effort made in the past, the meeting noted that integration process has hardly had any impact on development, principally because of low implementation of Community acts and decisions. It stated that pro-active measures needed to be taken if the region was to meet the millennium development goals. The summit,

therefore, urged greater commitment of Member States to the integration process and strong partnership with the World Bank. The summit called for bold action in key priority areas, greater emphasis on implementation, and effective regional mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the performance of the various partners and stakeholders.

The Heads of State expressed their satisfaction at the increasing importance that the World Bank was giving to the promotion of regional integration through the implementation of its regional assistance strategy. The meeting noted in particular that the World Bank interventions were concentrated on ECOWAS priority integration areas such as the convergence of macro-economic policies; trade policy reforms; regional financial markets; regional infrastructure networks; the management of shared river basins; and facilitating NEPAD implementation particularly through institutional capacity building.

The summit was informed that the World Bank has initiated action to ensure that its country assistance strategies are developed from a regional perspective. The meeting recommended, in this connection, that ECOWAS countries should reflect the regional commitments and decisions in their national policies and programmes. The summit welcomed the preparation of a regional PRSP to complement national PRSPs.

Implementation of ECOWAS/NEPAD programmes

The summit commended the collective effort being made in West Africa to implement the NEPAD agenda within the framework of the Yamoussoukro Plan of Action. It stressed that the ECOWAS programmes were well aligned with NEPAD. At the invitation of the meeting, presentations on three key ECOWAS/NEPAD programmes were made by their Excellencies:

- President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria on "**Sources and Effects on Conflicts in West Africa**"

- President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal on **"Building Regional Infrastructure"**
- President Amadou Toumani Toure of Mali on **"Trade Reforms in West Africa"**.

The summit also heard presentations from the President of the UEMOA Commission, the Director General of FAO, the Chairman of the NEPAD Steering Committee, and also from representatives of ADB and ECA.

The Way Forward

The ECOWAS Chairman summed up the presentations by emphasising the renewed commitment of West Africa to the acceleration of the regional integration process. He stated that the regional approach to the implementation of NEPAD would facilitate the integration process. He stressed that particular attention would be paid to the three ECOWAS/NEPAD priority areas of trade, infrastructure and peace and security. While expressing the appreciation of the region to the World Bank for its growing support to the integration and NEPAD initiative, the ECOWAS Chairman appealed to the President of the World Bank to envisage novel ways of increasing and making more effective the assistance of the World Bank group. In this regard, the World Bank was invited to envisage the provision of additional financial resources, more technical assistance to West African countries, IDA regional allocation, budget support, project preparation and project financing, etc.

The President of the World Bank welcomed the declared commitment of the West African leadership to the regional agenda. He expressed the readiness of his Institution to strengthen its partnership with West Africa. He called for a sustained and pragmatic approach to programme implementation to ensure that regional integration becomes truly operational. The World Bank President pledged continued support to the West African countries and their regional organisations. He agreed to the adoption of a well-focused

short-term plan of action for selected ECOWAS/NEPAD programmes, to be implemented by West Africa with the active support of the World Bank and other development partners, with periodic reviews to assess progress and compliance with the agreed plan.

Adoption of Accra Short-term Plan of Action

Following the deliberations on the presentations, the summit adopted a Short-term Plan of Action for accelerating the implementation of selected regional integration and NEPAD programmes. The plan of action covers the areas of trade (establishment of a customs union by the end of 2007, market access for West African exports); infrastructure projects (road transport and facilitation, energy and telecommunications); and peace and security (comprehensive approach to conflict prevention and resolution, Peace Fund). The plan of action also addresses institutional capacity building and envisages a regional mechanism for monitoring the implementation of ECOWAS/NEPAD programmes. A joint ECOWAS/World Bank task force was to be established for the purpose.

The plan of action is based on the principle of partnership and shared responsibility; first and foremost, among ECOWAS and its member countries, but also between West Africa and the World Bank. The plan of action also provides a framework for West African collaboration with its other development partners. The ECOWAS member countries renewed their commitment to the effective implementation of the provisions of the protocols on the selected priority regional programmes. It was agreed that periodic consultations between the ECOWAS leaders and the President of the World Bank would take place. The World Bank, for its part, committed itself to take all necessary measures to enhance its support of the regional agenda of West African countries.

Vote of thanks

The summit expressed its sincere gratitude for the warm hospitality extended by His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana, the Government and people of Ghana. The meeting expressed, in particular, its appreciation to President Kufuor for his keen and personal interest in the regional integration process and his support for the ECOWAS peace plan for the region.
